

[28 November 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(SCCL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) during the 90's were as under:—

Company		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
CIL	Accident	121	115	131	118	112	107"	96	99	91	94
	Fatalities	135	120	150	132	131	115"	110	in	104	103
SCCL	Accident	23	18	27	25	38	18	28	35	31	25
	Fatalities	24	19	27	31	50	21	29	35	36	27
NLC	Accident	3	1	1	—	3	4	—	4	2	3
	Fatalities	3	1	1	—	3	4	—	5	2	3

*Excludes New Kenda disaster involving 55 fatalities.

**Excludes Gaslitand disaster involving 77 fatalities.

(c) Total amount spent by CIL, SCCL and NLC on safety measures during 1990-91 to 1999-2000 were as under:—

Coal India Limited — Rs. 2892.47 crores

SCCL — Rs. 1097.24 crores

NLC — Rs. 240 lakhs to Rs. 300 lakhs per year

Impact of lifting of US sanctions on LCA project

1072. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of lifting of US sanctions on India recently on the country's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project;

(b) whether any assessment has been made on the extent of delay or any other serious consequences suffered by the project so far;

(c) the present status of the project and its revised targets;

(d) whether our systems software and other equipments which were stuck and were lying unused in the USA have been brought back; and

(e) if not, the time-frame fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Items denied earlier due to US sanctions would now be available at a competitive price from various sources including those from USA.

(b) There has been no serious impact on the project other than time delay.

(c) The first block of flight test phase involving 12 flights has been completed successfully on LCA technology demonstrator (TD1). Analysis of the test flight results indicate a good match between recorded flight data and performance estimates. The aircraft is being prepared for second block of flight tests. The flight testing of second technology demonstrator (TD2) is planned during 2001. Estimated time schedule to meet initial operational clearance is end of 2005 and the final operational clearance is end of 2008.

(d) and (e) Discussions have been initiated to re-negotiate contracts suspended due to sanctions imposed by USA in 1998.

Terms set for Defence deals by MoD

1073. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the terms set by Ministry of Defence for defence deals;

(b) whether Government have formulated the guidelines for selection of arms agents by foreign companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) to (c) A comprehensive formulation of the role, if any, which Authorised Representatives/Agents employed by foreign suppliers for the promotion of their product, may legitimately be expected to play, has been receiving the attention of Government for some time. The entire policy has been extensively reviewed recently with the objective of defining the scope, extent and the conditions within which such Authorised Representatives/Agents may be allowed to represent a foreign supplier or suppliers.

It is in this context that Ministry of Defence have, on 2nd November, 2001, issued comprehensive instructions relating to appointment of Indian Authorised Representatives/Agents by foreign suppliers for the promotion of their product.